

Otaki Potters

MAY 2015



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Others with responsibility:

Club Library	Kaye Stead
New members	Jude Whitaker
Newsletter Editor	Caitlin Taylor
Keys	Ray Maddock

Dates to Remember :

Pot-in: 10th June 10am-2pm & 13th 10am-12
Dry Glaze Workshop: 16th June 10am-4pm
Raku 25th July 10am - 4pm
Naked Raku Workshop 19th July 2pm
Unearth Local Potter 30th May - 1st June

Greetings!

It has been a busy month. I think the highlight for some was the first workshop with Fiona Tunnicliffe. The place was certainly buzzing when I called in and the results are quite stunning. We are now in the process of bisquing the work. The second workshop in June is now full. You can put your name on the waiting list in case someone pulls out. The same applies to the Dry Glaze workshop with Jenny Turnbull on June 16th.

The 'Blokes Working Bee' on the 23rd got a lot done during the six hours. 9 blokes turned out and not a pikelet or scone turned up for morning tea! - See Brent's update p3.

Jenny Turnbull, Rebecca Flowerday, Jeavons and I were the team that represented the club at the "Empty Bowl pot-in" at the Wellington Potters rooms on the 24th. Rebecca is a member of Wellington Potters and Otaki Potters so she was definitely ours. Rebecca is a ball of energy. She is organising the Empty Bowls Project so it is a pleasure to work with her to raise funds for DCM (Downtown City Mission) who work with the homeless in the city. 202 bowls were made in just over 90 minutes; it was a great effort. Jenny threw 35 of them. Rebecca wedged up two and a half bags of clay, I was relegated to do a hand built bowl and Jeavons was promoted to the judging panel. It was great fun. They are well on the way to reaching their target of 850 bowls.

We will be running our own pot-ins to support the venture on Wednesday June 10th, 10am -2pm and Saturday 13th, 10am-12noon. If you have an hour or two to spare come and join us, or take clay home. You can either work on the bench or on the wheel. Clay will be provided. We have been requested to weigh out 650g per bowl. You can also donate bowls and these will be noted with your name when they go up for sale. For more on the project go to <http://www.emptybowls.org.nz>

The two new 8cu ft Elecfurn kilns and the 3.5 cu ft Cobcraft kiln have been installed and managed electronically from the laptop. The committee decided that the upgrade be done consistently with new technology. Taking a long term view; what we have now should serve us well for the next 15 - 20 years. The project came in under budget despite unexpected related costs.

At the time of writing, one of the old kilns has found a new home with a potter, Sue from Waiuku. The other is currently being advertised on Trade Me with controller, probe, spare elements and ceramic rods. Thanks to Jenny Turnbull for handling this.



We have had two good **gas firings**. Remember to fill in a 'gas fire' ticket listing the glazes you have used. Gas fire pots go on the marked shelves in the drying room.

The gas kiln (65 firings to date) and the new raku kilns are being upgraded in terms of equipment required to measure temperature and atmosphere.

The kiln room has been modified to accommodate the new kilns and provide adequate shelving.

Thank you to everyone who has pitched in so willingly to improve and upgrade our facilities. Some people have put a lot of time into the project and this is appreciated.

It is important that your work is identified with your mark, which is registered in the front of the kiln book, or your club number before it goes into the kiln room. Please label your work with the type of firing you require, eg. Bisque, 1100, 1140, 1200, 1260. There will be tickets printed and placed in containers on the kiln room bench. If you are firing a collection of small pieces, at least one of them must be identified. Work must be stable enough not to topple or roll onto other work during the firing. Bisque work, which had been sitting around for a while, was moved into the drying room. What was unclaimed by the 18th May was disposed of. It would be helpful if you took home bisque pots that are unlikely to be glazed within three weeks of coming out of the firing. (Ok. I'll give myself a good talking to!).

Because some people have been waiting to get into a wheel class for some time, we are running a class for beginners on a Tuesday morning 10am-12 noon. The rooms are still available during this time for club members to use.

The next **Raku** is scheduled for Saturday July 25th 10am-4pm. Postponement date will be August 1st. There will be a workshop for those who want to do naked raku on Sunday 19th July 2pm. Please write your name on the list or email Caitlin if you plan to attend.

Southern Sculptural clay has been unavailable for a while but the supplier assures me that some will be available soon. We are well stocked at present with all other clays. We have one bag of tile clay to trial. If you are interested see me.

Ivanka Johnson has been our faithful cleaner for some years and now she has her Gold Card it's time to put up her mop and take life a bit easier. We will thank her and farewell her on a club day in June. We now have a job vacancy for a cleaner, two hours per week. If you, or anyone you know, are interested please contact Caitlin.

We also thank Carol Elsmann for the good work that she has done with the library over the years. Kaye Stead now becomes the club librarian.

Payments to the club have caused our treasurers some headaches lately. People need to fill the payments form in carefully making sure it adds up correctly. Stephanie has updated the form. If you are paying by internet banking, each item that is included in the payment must be itemised. Ann and Joy need to know specifically what you are paying for. You may need to do a separate transaction for each item. You can download your own receipt if required.

A Special Meeting of members will take place in July to amend the club constitution; you will receive a copy of the current constitution with this newsletter. Please read it and make any recommendations in writing to the secretary before June 10th.

If anyone has a DVD player, in good condition that they are prepared to donate to the club please contact Caitlin.

Please remember to wipe down benches with wet sponges then wipe with a dry towel. Clay dust is a health hazard and we must do our best to minimize the problem.

Winter, here we come. The heater is on, the water is hot the clay is waiting.

Happy potting. - Rod

**Pots from the April Raku
- Rods, Paulas and Beryls**



**Childrens holiday workshop
- building castles.**



The great men's working bee.

(whichever way you say it).

23rd May 2015

The 9.30 start meant that a cup of coffee and a chat was called for as we walked around the project.

- The tool cupboard need refurbishing.
- The "tree" needed serious surgery.
- The Clay shed window needed replacing.
- The Raku supply shed door needed replacing.
- All the gutters needed cleaning out, and flushing.
- The new kiln needed replacement of the lid insulation.
- The shelves in the kiln room needed renewing.
- Rods table needed replacing.



David Simmonds got up on the roof, and we didn't see him until the end of the day, although he managed to cover us all in fine spray and dead leaves at every turn. He wrecked David Styles hose (which cost him \$17 at the Warehouse) which had so many holes it was not good to be around.

Ern Bale & David Styles replaced the window and door with a precision that was spell binding in its execution.

Russell removed fittings and painted the completed woodwork. He'd brought a brush and roller for every eventuality.

Mike Page, Allan Hunter & Rod refurbished the kiln insulation.

Brendon & yours truly stripped and replaced the shelves in the kiln room.

The "tree" was artfully pruned and the evidence disposed of before the caretaker found out.

Stephanie arrived to check on the skill level, and was so impressed that she went home for a well-earned rest.

The tool cupboard has gone on holiday and will return to duty after a well overdue pampering.

There's no photographic evidence of Saturdays mission, 'cause we were all working so hard, that by the time we remembered; everybody had gone home, including the photographer (sorry Caitlin).

Brent



RAKU by DUNCAN SMITH April 2015



Pots by Jeavons Baillie



Raku red clay, unglazed, gas fired Nickel purple

Red underglaze, transfer and JB speckle, gas fired

THE EMPTY BOWLS PROJECT

Over 2015, Wellington Potters Association will be supporting an innovative, fun and very worthy community event called Empty Bowls.

We are looking to involve as many members as possible in this project.

WHAT: The Empty Bowls project matches the creativity and skills of local Potters and a worthy cause. It aims to raise money to support a charitable community service in the Wellington Region, the Downtown Community Ministry, by selling 850 bowls of soup.

WHEN: From now until mid-July 2015, Wellington potters are invited to make soup bowls for donation. Over the month of August 2015 your soup bowls will be purchased by patrons with donations going to a Community Service Group.

WHO: This year the Downtown Community Ministry (DCM) will receive the proceeds from the Empty Bowls project. The DCM's primary purpose is to support disadvantaged and marginalised people living around the Wellington region. Each year the DCM supports over 850 local people in the community. Therefore our target will be to make 850 soup bowls.

HOW: Local company managemyproperty will provide clay plus seeding fund for firing. WPA members and supporters will make 850 soup bowls.

Please contact Rebecca Flowerday on 027 279 9077 if you'd like to support this project.

See the notice board for further details or [www.http://www.emptybowls.org.nz](http://www.emptybowls.org.nz)



5-7 yr old 'after school' Monday class,



Beginners Wheel Class



Elements Exhibition: NZ Potters Inc.



8 May - 21 June 2015

NZ Potters Inc celebrates 50 years as an incorporated society this year. The Wellington and Western region hold an annual exhibition, Elements, showcasing work by potters in the region from domestic-ware to sculpture. This year the selector is local potter Paul Melser.



UNEARTH YOUR LOCAL POTTERS TRAIL

PARAPARAUMU BEACH
Jenny Shearer & Rebecca Neal
Cnr Manly & Arthur Street

OTAKI
Jennifer Turnbull
3 Itri Street

WAIKANA E BEACH
Dianne Register-Stout
21 Frimley Terrace

Pamella Annsouth & Linette van Greunen
170 Weggery Drive

Michelle Retimana
83 Rutherford Drive

Frank Light
28 Manly Street

30th May - 1st June 2015
10AM - 4PM

Pamella Annsouth

Jennifer Turnbull

Rebecca Neal

Michelle Retimana

Dianne Register-Stout

Jenny Shearer

Linette van Greunen

Frank Light



2015 Cleaning Bees.

11 July,
12 September,
12 December.

Rosters are on the noticeboard.
If you put your name down please let Stephanie know if you cannot come.





Temple of Hera

Bronwynne Cornish (born 1945) New Zealand ceramicist and sculptor



Over the weekend my wife Carolyn and I visited the Dowse Museum to see 'Mudlark' - a major exhibition of Bronwynne Cornish's work - one of New Zealand's most celebrated ceramic artists.

For those of you who have not yet discovered her work, Bronwynne has been working with clay since the 1960's. She was first turned onto working with clay after running into Barry Brickell, then learned her craft from Helen Mason here in

Wellington before moving around various parts of the North Island. Bronwynne finally set up her own studio in Mt Eden, Auckland, in the mid 1970's. Since then she has been an active member of the Auckland Society of Potters and has taught at a number of institutions.

As a full time potter Bronwynne has exhibited in a number of major galleries both in New Zealand and overseas. Her style is quite unique and personal reflecting a strong feminine theme, her interest in ritual and the power of magic.

'Mudlark', celebrates a significant stage of Bronwynne's artistic career showing an impressive breadth of work. A lovely touch to the exhibition was displayed at the entry where her terracotta cat sat for you to pat. To me this started the exhibition with a significant human touch - inviting everyone, young and old to connect personally with the exhibition display, quite a change from the hands-off shows where work is placed behind cabinetry, barriers or walls of glass.

Making up most of her exhibition are her figures. Hybrid humanal forms or animal and people beings inspired by Egyptian deities, sphinx, birds, and mythological animals. These motifs have formed a cornerstone of Cornish's practice over the past twenty years, and constantly recur in her work. They seem deeply invested with spiritualism, having been used by ancient Egyptians as protection against evil. I feel Bronwynne's modern examples evoke the same response acting also as guardians, protecting their owners or surroundings.



Carolyn asked "where is the glaze" however, for the work to harken to those ancient excavated antiquities which were not glazed, these pieces too are unadorned. In their simplicity without glaze the figures talk of the material of their creation, the earth and fire, with a simple, silent beauty.

A personal favourite of mine, 'Temple of Hera' (1996) was one of the many temples on display. What drew me to this piece was the raw clay surface. Pit fired it is quite small in size, and could easily be placed in a home as a personal altar.

Filling a much larger space in the exhibition is one of Bronwynne's installations works, 'Home is where the Heart is'. Works of this size first appeared in the 1980s and at the time were considered a radical departure from the accepted traditions of pottery-making in New Zealand. For me it was great to be reacquainted with the work. I first saw it at the Denis Cohen gallery in the early Eighties. I didn't understand it then, and I still have questions about it now, but no doubt the work speaks to the viewer on many levels.

I see images of domestic life (slip-cast clothes pegs), ritual and magic (the temple and the row of cats) plus the feminine statement that prevails but this is where I finish. I know I should both see and experience more.

If you are unable get out to The Dowse you can go to AVID Gallery, and see a number of Bronwynne's Chimney Cats, Temples and Jugs. The cats were first made in 1982 and are a major component of the 'Home is Where the Heart Is' installation. Each has been cast in red or white earthenware clay, with slips applied to some of the surfaces. Each cat slightly differs from its neighbour, with small marks and stain runs. This make each unique and further more shows the makers hand.

Applied to each cat are Egyptian shaped eyes, these eyes hold a particular fascination almost haunting as they stare out at you. No wonder, as they represent the old chimney cats placed as Guardians to ward off evil. They also strongly refer to the Egyptian Goddess 'Bastet' the protector. Seeing them up close and being able to walk around them was truly moving.

There are also two of Bronwynne's ceramic temples that I enjoyed even more than the cats. They show a far higher skill level and display greater variation of workmanship. Each has an interval surface treatment and design with interesting glaze or stained surfaces. Between them they have a strong sense of the material and craftsmanship - which I really admire.

As you can tell I am impressed with Bronwynne Cornish's work. It's great that another New Zealand potter is getting such recognition. Furthermore, I look forward to seeing further developments in her very personal style in the future.

The Dowse Art Museum - "Mudlark" is on until, 2nd August
- Maurice Bennett

Special Offer

to OPC members & attendees of classes

40% off workshop price \$69 (usually \$115)

Pal Tiya Clay Sculpture Workshop

(non-firing clay used by Weta Workshop)



Sat 30 May 2015

10am-4pm

Trinity Farm

202 Waitohu Valley Road
Otaki

See workshops on www.trinityfarm.co.nz

Tutors : Karen Piercy & Kevin Haste

Please BYO lunch, favourite pottery tools
& banding wheel if you have one.

Tea/coffee are supplied.

Book with Karen on 0800 955 555 or

roses@trinityfarm.co.nz

Cash, eftpos and bank deposit accepted, no credit cards at this price.